

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A server comprising:
 - a location data receiving ~~means~~unit which receives present location data from at least one of a plurality of terminal units via a communication network; and
 - a road information updating ~~means~~unit which creates locus data using said received present location data and which updates road information stored in said server with said locus data,wherein said server is configured to update road information in a map information providing system,
 - wherein said map information providing system provides desired road information in accordance with a request from at least one of said terminal units, and
 - wherein said server has road information constructed therein,
 - wherein said road information updating unit comprises:
 - a comparing/collating section, which compares/collates the locus data created using said present location data with said road information constructed in the server; and
 - a road information updating section, which updates said road information constructed in the server with said locus data, when a result of comparing/collating said locus

data with said road information constructed in the server indicates that road information that corresponds to said locus data has not been defined in the server,

wherein said road information updating unit further comprises a road information updating determining section, which determines that said locus data is data with which to update the road information constructed in the server, when locus data obtained by a prescribed number of terminal units are substantially similar, and

wherein, when a vehicle travels off a route on a road map displayed on at least one of said terminal units, said at least one of said terminal units sends a current position to said server.

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended): A method for updating road information in a map information providing system which provides desired road information from a road network site, in accordance with a request from at least one of a plurality of terminal units, which are connected to the road network site via a communication network, wherein said road network site has road information constructed therein, the method comprising:

at said road network site, receiving present location data from at least one of said terminal units via said communication network;

creating locus data using the received present location data; and

updating said road information constructed in said road network site using said created locus data,

wherein, when a vehicle travels off a route on a road map displayed on at least one of said terminal units, said at least one of said terminal units sends a present location to said road network site.

5. (previously presented): The method of updating road information according to claim 4, further comprising:

comparing/collating said created locus data with said road information constructed in said road network site; and

updating said road information constructed in said road network site with said created locus data, when a result of comparing/collating said created locus data with said road information constructed in said road network site indicates that road information that corresponds to said created locus data has not been previously defined as road information constructed in said road network site.

6. (previously presented): The method of updating road information according to claim 5, further comprising determining that said created locus data is data with which to update the road information constructed in said road network site when locus data obtained by a prescribed number of terminal units are substantially similar.

7. (previously presented): The method of updating road information according to claim 4, wherein:

said map information includes node data, which is indicative of a point on a map, and link data, which is indicative of a road on the map, and

said road network site correlates said node data and said link data and transmits these correlated data as road information to be updated to at least one of the terminal units according to a request from said at least one of the terminal units.

8. (currently amended): A server program for a server which updates road information in a map information providing system, wherein the server program causes a computer to execute steps comprising:

a first step of receiving present location data from at least one of a plurality of terminal units via a communication network;

a second step of creating locus data using the received present location data;

a third step of updating road information which is constructed in a road network site;

wherein said server provides desired road information from said road network site in accordance with a request from at least one of said terminal units, and

wherein, when a vehicle travels off a route on a road map displayed on at least one of said terminal units, said at least one of said terminal units sends a present location to said server.

9. (previously presented): The server program for a server which updates road information according to claim 8, wherein said second step causes a computer to execute steps comprising:

comparing/collating said locus data with said road information constructed in the road network site; and

updating said road information constructed in the road network site with said locus data when a result of comparing/collating said locus data with said road information constructed in the road network site indicates that road information that corresponds to said locus data has not been previously defined as road information constructed in said road network site.

10. (previously presented): The server program for a server which updates road information according to claim 8, wherein said second step causes a computer to execute a step of determining that said locus data is data with which to update the road information constructed in said road network site when locus data obtained by a prescribed number of terminal units are substantially similar.

11. (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a server program for a server which updates road information in a map information providing system, , wherein said sever program causes a computer to execute steps comprising:

a first step of receiving present location data from at least one of a plurality of terminal units via a communication network;

a second step of creating locus data using the received present location data;

a third step of updating road information which is constructed in a road network site,
wherein said server provides desired road information from said road network site in
accordance with a request from at least one of said terminal units, and
wherein, when a vehicle travels off a route on a road map displayed on at least one of
said terminal units, said at least one of said terminal units sends a present location to said server.

12. (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium storing the server
program for the server which updates road information in the map information providing system
according to claim 11, wherein said second step further comprises:

comparing/collating said locus data with said road information constructed in the road
network site; and

updating said road information constructed in the road network site with said locus data
when a result of comparing/collating said locus data with said road information constructed in
the road network site indicates that road information that corresponds to said locus data has not
been previously defined as said road information constructed in the road network site.

13. (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium storing the server
program for the server which updates road information in the map information providing system
according to claim 12, wherein said second step further comprises the step of determining that
said locus data is data with which to update the road information constructed in said road
network site when locus data obtained by a prescribed number of terminal units are substantially
similar.